

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 2160 - HB 2281

February 24, 2014

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires any person with knowledge of the death of a child or who is called upon to render aid to any child who is determined to be deceased or dies while in the person's care to report the death to the Department of Children's Services (DCS) and local law enforcement. Requires the department to work with local law enforcement to determine if the information reported warrants the initiation of an investigation into the child's death by Child Protective Services.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$41,900

Increase Federal Expenditures - \$19,900

Assumptions:

- According to DCS, the department currently receives 200 reports annually if the cause of death is suspected to be from child abuse or neglect.
- DCS estimates an additional 700 child deaths a year will be reported to the department.
- DCS anticipates the need for an additional case manager position to review the submitted reports and coordinate with local law enforcement and Child Protective Services if an investigation is warranted.
- The position will result in an increase in expenditures of \$61,800 which includes salary (\$34,400), benefits (\$12,400), and supplies, office space, and network costs (\$15,000).
- Of this amount, 45 percent (\$27,810) are TennCare funds, three percent (\$1,854) are federal Title IV-E funds, and the remaining 52 percent (\$32,136) are state funds.
- Of the TennCare funds, \$9,715 are state funds at a rate of 34.935 percent and \$18,095 are federal funds at a match rate of 65.065 percent.
- The total recurring increase in state expenditures is \$41,851 (\$32,136 + \$9,715) and the total recurring increase in federal expenditures is \$19,949 (\$1,854 + \$18,095).
- There will not be a significant fiscal impact to local law enforcement to work with DCS to determine if the death warrants an investigation by Child Protective Services.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lucian" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

/kml